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were in the gallery of the Louvre;* and to place them in proper order in this room, where the artists should have a free right to study and copy them. To devote a part of this room to an annual exhibition of the works of American artists, where they might be exposed to the publick, and the same facilities for the sale of them, as in the exhibitions of Europe. That all the receipts from admission, as well as the interest of any surplus funds that might remain from the original subscription, should be devoted every year to the purchase of the works sent by the different artists for exhibition, which should be added to the permanent collection of the Museum. In this way a considerable sum might be expended in purchasing the works of our artists, besides what might be bought by individuals. Several gentlemen have already promised their subscription, and it may be hoped that the publick at large will approve of the design.

FOR THE NORTH-AMERICAN JOURNAL.

The life of Dr. Richard Price, by William Morgan, F. R. S. has been published very recently in London.† As a piece of Biography it is not remarkably well written. It contains some extracts from letters from Dr. Franklin, Dr. Rush, and Arthur Lee, and mentions that he had a constant correspondence with Mr. Jefferson, while the latter was ambassadour in France. A selection from the correspondence between Dr. Price, and so many eminent men in different countries, would form an interesting volume. Mr. Morgan alludes in a dissatisfied tone, to an answer Dr. Price received from President Adams, to a letter which he

* A gentleman now in Paris, who was one of the promoters of this plan, not only promised his subscription, but that he would take charge of purchasing and shipping the objects at the least expense possible to this country.

† Since writing these few lines, we have seen the 49th Number of the *Edinburgh Review*, in which there is an article that does justice to this meagre work of Mr. Morgan. The following remark is made relative to this letter. 'The letter of Mr. John Adams, in which, "he spoke with contempt of the French Revolution at its commencement, and foretold the destruction of a million of human beings as its probable consequence," certainly deserved publication, much better than those very foolish invectives against Mr. Burke, in which Mr. Morgan describes him as "possessed by some demon of the nether regions," and as a man "whose passions had deranged his understanding."'

had written him, accompanying a copy of his century discourse commemorating the English revolution, in which he indulged in sanguine expectations of the French revolution then commencing. The book having been shewn to Mr. Adams, he consented that the letter should be copied, to prevent any misconception, and we are indebted to a friend for the honour of publishing this copy. Our readers, on observing the date particularly, will be more struck with its contents. The venerable writer was one of the very few persons, who, either in Europe or America, foresaw the consequences of the revolution in its very outset, of which this letter is a most remarkable proof. We are extremely pleased at being able to gratify our readers with such a document of this great Statesman. [Ed.]

Extract from Morgan's Life of Dr. Price, p. 157.

‘ The hopes and expectations of the friends of freedom
‘ at this time, appear to have been raised to an extraordi-
‘ nary height, and particularly those of Dr. Price. Nay, so
‘ well assured was he of the establishment of a free consti-
‘ tution in France, and of the subsequent overthrow of des-
‘ potism throughout Europe as the consequence of it, that
‘ he never failed to express his gratitude to Heaven for
‘ having extended his life to the present happy period, in
‘ which “ after sharing the benefits of one revolution, he
‘ had been spared to be a witness to two other revolutions,
‘ both glorious.” But some of his correspondents were not
‘ quite so sanguine in their expectations from the last of
‘ these revolutions ; and among these the late American am-
‘ bassador, Mr. John Adams. In a long letter which he
‘ wrote to Dr. Price at this time, so far from congratulating
‘ him on the occasion, he expresses himself in terms of con-
‘ tempt in regard to the French revolution ; and after asking,
‘ rather too severely, what good was to be expected from a
‘ nation of Atheists, he concludes with foretelling the de-
‘ struction of a million of human beings as the probable con-
‘ sequence of it. These harsh censures and gloomy pre-
‘ dictions were particularly ungrateful to Dr. Price ; nor
‘ can it be denied, that they must then have appeared as
‘ the effusions of a splenetic mind, rather than as the sober
‘ reflections of an unbiassed understanding. From the nu-

‘merous letters which he was continually receiving, from
 ‘some of the most enlightened and respectable persons in
 ‘France, as well as from the general tenor of their proceed-
 ‘ings in the National Assembly, Dr. Price had every rea-
 ‘son to entertain a very different opinion from that of Mr.
 ‘Adams.’

Copy of a letter from Mr. Adams to Dr. Price.

NEW-YORK, APRIL 19, 1790.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Accept of my best thanks for your favour of Feb. 1st. and the excellent Discourse that came with it. I love the zeal and the spirit which dictated this Discourse, and admire the general sentiments of it. From the year 1760 to this hour, the whole scope of my life has been to support such principles and propagate such sentiments. No sacrifices of myself or my family, no dangers, no labours have been too much for me in this great cause. The Revolution in France could not therefore be indifferent to me. But I have learned by awful experience, to rejoice with trembling. I know that Encyclopedists and Economists, Diderot and D'Alembert, Voltaire and Rousseau, have contributed to this great event more than Locke, Sidney, or Hoadley, and perhaps more than the American Revolution. And I own to you I know not what to make of a Republic, of thirty millions of Atheists.

The Constitution is but an experiment, and must and will be altered. I know it to be impossible that France should be long governed by it. If the Sovereignty is to reside in one; the King, the Princes of the blood, and principal Quality, will govern it at their pleasure, as long as they can agree. When they differ, they will go to war, and act over again all the Tragedies of the Valois, Bourbons, Lorrains, Guises and Colign's two hundred years ago.

The Greeks sung the praises of Harmodius and Aristogiton for restoring equal laws.—Too many Frenchmen, after the example of too many Americans, pant for equality of Persons and Property. The impracticability of this, God Almighty has decreed, and the advocates for liberty who attempt it will surely suffer for it.

I thank you, Sir, for your kind compliment.—As it has been the great aim of my life to be useful; if I had any rea-

son to think I was so, as you seem to suppose, it would make me happy. 'For eminence' I care nothing.—For though I pretend not to be exempt from ambition, or any other human passion, I have been convinced from my infancy, and have been confirmed every year and day of my life, that the mechanic and peasant are happier than any nobleman or magistrate or king; and that the higher a man rises, if he has any sense of duty, the more anxious he must be.

Our new Government is a new attempt to divide a Sovereignty. A fresh essay at *Imperium in Imperio*. It cannot therefore be expected to be very stable or very firm. It will prevent us for a time from drawing our swords upon each other; and when it will do that no longer, we must call a Convention to reform it.

The difficulty of bringing millions to agree in any measures, to act by any rule, can never be conceived by him who has not tried it. It is incredible how small is the number in any nation of those, who comprehend any system of Constitution, or Administration; and those few it is wholly impossible to unite.

I am a sincere inquirer after truth.—But I find very few who discover the same truths. The King of Prussia has found one, which has also fallen in my way; 'That it is the peculiar quality of the human understanding, that example should correct no man; the blunders of the Fathers are lost to their Children, and every generation must commit its own.'

I have never sacrificed my judgment to Kings, Ministers, nor People, and I never will. When either shall see as I do, I shall rejoice in their protection, aid, and honour; but I see no prospect that either will ever think as I do, and therefore I shall never be a favourite with either. I do not desire to be.

But I sincerely wish and devoutly pray, that a hundred years of civil wars, may not be the portion of all Europe, for the want of a little attention to the true elements of the science of government.

With sentiments, moral sentiments, which are and must be eternal, I am your friend,

JOHN ADAMS.

DR. PRICE, *Hackney*.